RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 19*th February,* 2003/30 *Magha,* 1924 (*Saka*)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Reforms in Orissa Jails

#*21. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:†
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cash-starved state of Orissa has not been able to carry out the desired reforms in their jails; and

(b) whether the Central Government propose to render financial or other help to overcome this handicap; if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Prison reforms is a continuous process and the Government of Orissa has been constructing additional prison wards to reduce the overcrowding and improve hygiene and sanitation in prisons in a phased manner. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to improve the condition of prisons, Central Government has been providing financial assistance to them under the scheme of the modernization of prison administration. During 1993-94 to 2001-02 the Government of Orissa was provided an amount of Rs. 233.78 lakhs under

Question No. 21 and 28 were taken together.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramachandra Khuntia.

the scheme. Central Government has now launched a new non-plan scheme from the current financial year for construction of additional jails to reduce overcrowiding, repair and renovation of existing jails, improvement in sanitation and water supply and living accommodation for prison staff to be implemented over a period of five years with an outlay of Rs. 1800 crore on cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 by the Central Government and the State Governments respectively. The tentative allocation under this scheme for Orissa for the next five years is Rs. 107.40 crore including the State share.

Over crowding in Jails

#*28. SHRI B.J. PANDA:†
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports captioned, "Indian jails overcrowded with 67,000 prisoners-UP jails worse with over 29,000 inmates, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Manipur prisons have space" as reported in the Asian Age, dated the 18th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the facual position about over-crowding in different jails and whether National Human Rights Commission has expressed concern over this; and

(c) the position with regard to over-crowding in jails in Orissa with steps to reduce this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Government is aware of the report captioned, "Indian jails overcrowded with over 67,000 prisoners" published in the New Delhi edition of The Asian Age dated 19th December, 2002.

#Question No. 21 and 28 were taken together.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramachandra Khuntia.